

## **SOLUTION ARCHITECTS' WORKING GROUP (SAWG)**

### ***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***

#### **BACKGROUND**

There is a strong need and business case for standardization of technologies and requirements used to design, build, and implement solutions for the 24 Presidential Priority E-Gov initiatives. Without standardization and the recommendation of technologies, agencies risk building and deploying solutions that use proprietary technologies, are not aligned to the Federal Enterprise Architecture (FEA) and isolate themselves from other initiatives and cross-agency business functions. To mitigate these risks, the FEA-Program Management Office (PMO) created a Component-Based Architecture that defines a set of recommendations that should be considered when selecting the tools, technologies, and industry-standards that will be used to build the 24 Presidential Priority E-Gov initiatives and subsequent business solutions. A multi-disciplinary and cross-functional working group of initiative representatives is necessary to assist with the coordination and implementation of the Component-Based Architecture.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Under the direction of the FEA-PMO, the SAWG was created to help agencies and the 24 Presidential Priority E-Gov initiatives achieve success in areas of system architecture, technology selection, and the adoption of industry-driven standards (i.e., XML, Web Services, J2EE, .NET) that can be leveraged on a governmentwide scale. The SAWG will also support FEA efforts, and help integrate the 24 Presidential Priority E-Gov initiatives with e-authentication. The SAWG is supported by Federal personnel across a multitude of agencies. Specifically, the SAWG:

- Provides E-Gov initiative teams with solution architects who will assist in defining initiative blueprints and validate system architectures to support the planning and implementation of the 24 Presidential Priority E-Gov initiatives.
- Establishes linkages between relevant governmentwide entities (i.e., CIO Council, XML Working Group) to ensure that standards, best practices, and lessons learned are leveraged across the entire government.
- Selects, recommends, and assists in the deployment of technologies that are proven, stable, interoperable, portable, secure, and scalable.
- Facilitates the migration and transition of E-Gov initiatives from legacy and “inward-driven” architectures, to architectures that embrace component-driven methodologies and technology reuse.

- Identifies and quickly capitalizes on opportunities to leverage, share, and reuse technologies to support common business requirements, activities, and operations across the Federal Government.
- Champions the creation and propagation of intellectual capital (IC) that can assist in E-Government transformation.

## KEY OBJECTIVES

The SAWG has defined several **key objectives** to help agencies leverage the skills and capabilities of the working group. These include (but are not limited to):

**1. Generation and Distribution of IC.** Generate IC on an on-going basis and maintain it within a collaboration/knowledge management tool. This includes the generation of white papers, lessons learned, best practices, recommendation, questionnaires, and business-driven technology strategies.

**2. Architecture Assessments and Linkage Identification.** Help agencies assess existing architectures and technologies to plan target solutions and architecture strategies focused on interoperability, extensibility, security, and component reuse.

**3. Component Directory.** Establish a component directory that will be accessible over a secure extranet to initiative owners and the managing partners of the 24 Presidential Priority E-Gov initiatives. This directory will provide an area within which users will be able to find, evaluate, share, download, and rate software components, as well as a directory of business functions that the component supports. The component directory will provide the “latest” research and analysis surrounding the selection and recommendation of third-party and other industry components that are supported by the Component-Based Architecture.

**4. Training.** Provide recommendations for a training program to support the development of architecture components. Courses will include training on architecture, development, program management, and implementation from credible educational and technical providers in the areas of XML, J2EE and .NET technologies.

**5. Monitoring, Support, and Guidance.** Provide daily support, guidance, and subject matter expertise to assist agencies in the implementation of their initiatives. Subject to the availability of SAWG Solution Architects, activities will include onsite visits, planning, architecture review and comment, technology recommendations, verification and validation, Joint Application Development sessions, Rapid Application Development sessions, vendor/product evaluations, etc.

**6. Communication and Outreach.** Establish and maintain a website (<http://sawg.gov>) to support intra- and inter-governmental communications of activities, progress, and achievements. In addition, the SAWG will serve as the liaison to relevant governmentwide entities (i.e., Federal CIO Council, XML Working Group, etc.) to ensure that guidance and recommendations are integrated into Federal Architecture guidance and recommendations.